

HOW TO SURVIVE WHEN PRINTED MONEY TURNS INTO USELESS PAPER



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How to Survive When Printed Money Turns into Useless Paper

Imagine for a moment that you are a skydiver, plunging toward the earth at ever-accelerating speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour. After a minute or so of enjoying freefall, you know the time has come to pull the ripcord and release your parachute so you can experience a safe and comfortable landing. And so with the assurance and confidence of an experienced jumper you reach for your cord and give it a good, quick tug.

But nothing happens. So you pull again and again and still the cord won't budge and your main chute will not deploy. Now plummeting downward at more than 150 miles per hour, and trying to control your rising sense of panic, you grab the ripcord attached to your backup chute and pull it forcefully, praying silently for divine intervention to guarantee a safe landing.

But your prayers are not answered – your backup parachute also fails to deploy, and your ascent to certain destruction continues. At this point, you are faced with only two possible outcomes: either your frantic last-second efforts to pull your ripcord loose finally succeed, releasing your parachute just in time to save your life; or those efforts fail, and you hit the ground at more than 200 miles an hour and you find yourself knocking on the pearly gates just a few moments later.

And unfortunately, even if you do manage to get your chute to open, because it deployed so late you are still going to hit the ground at a high rate of speed, crumpling like a paper sack and likely breaking both of your legs, your arms, quite possibly your back, and any other part of your body that ends up hitting the ground – depending on the way you land. All in all, you are going to be one battered, bruised, and beat up individual, and even if you survive you may end up wishing that you hadn't.

This grim scenario is a perfect analogy for the current state of the US and global economies. Governments, businesses, and individuals are drowning in red ink, thanks to scandalous and overzealous overspending and a privatized financial system that only creates money in the form of debt with compound interest attached.

With a dark inertia that would take the gravitational pull of a thousand suns to reverse, the global economy is speeding toward destruction as rapidly as a skydiver without a parachute, and even if the worst of the worst can somehow be avoided, the best that can be hoped for is a savage and prolonged recession or even a second depression that will destroy the hopes, dreams, and savings of tens of millions, if not hundreds of millions of people in the United States and billions more around the world. But unless a miracle occurs, and someone finds a way to get the world economy's backup chute to deploy, we are likely headed for a financial crash that will make the Great Depression of the 1930s look like a picnic in the park on a sunny day.

At a fundamental level the current state of the world economy is a paradox. We have a well-trained, highly-skilled, mobile workforce; we have abundant natural resources and a knowledge of how to recycle and reuse just about anything; at the moment, we have more than enough food and water to go around; superb existing technology (that we continue to improve upon all the time) and robust research-and-development programs that promise a plethora of fantastic new technological breakthroughs; innumerable high-quality educational institutions that offer the best opportunities for learning that have ever existed on this planet; and a long record of activity and experimentation in the social, cultural, and economic spheres that can offer us real insights into which approaches to problem-solving work and which ones do not.

And yet in the midst of this ocean of plenitude, we are drowning in misery. And why is that? Because as most are struggling just to survive, there remain a few corporations and financial conglomerates who are becoming as fat and happy as Jabba the Hutt, bloated to the gills with the incredible wealth they have ruthlessly expropriated from the average men and women who do most of the actual work in this world.

The current economic order is an evil order, built on rank injustice and unfairness; and when it all comes crumbling down under the weight of massive debt and the inability of undercompensated working people to consume enough to keep the game going any longer, those who have profited from this pyramid scheme disguised as an economy – and none have profited more than the bankers and the financial insiders – will escape into the night with their pockets filled with treasure, leaving the rest of us behind holding the (empty) bag.

It is not a pretty picture by any stretch of the imagination, and exceedingly difficult times may lie ahead for you and your loved ones, regardless of how the coming financial implosion plays itself out. Banking and finance have become completely unmoored from the real meat-and-potatoes economy, and when this insane system finally plummets to its death or is left broken and battered beyond

recognition, you will have only two possible choices: either give up and acquiesce to the destruction, or take part in a collaborative, grass-roots effort to rebuild a new market economy that is localized, sustainable, truly free, and based on sound money and barter.

But you must not wait a moment longer. Your preparations for the hard times to come should begin today, before the faltering financial behemoth that presently controls our lives collapses under its own immense weight. Financial survival in the hardest of times is possible, no matter how bleak the outlook may appear; you can endure and even prosper, if you are ready for the challenges to come and take the proper actions to get your financial affairs in order before the big bad wolf arrives to huff and puff and blow everyone's houses down.

Precious Metals: Your Hedge against a Terrible and Uncertain Future

Our current financial system is truly a sight to behold. Rather than relying on the sensible circulation of physical money with a tangible connection to real goods and services to spur economic growth and development, our political elites have instead gifted us with a privately-controlled financial system where astronomical electronic debt circulates endlessly; its movement driven not by solid economic imperatives but by speculative investment practices that are designed to produce a few winners in a world filled with serfs and paupers.

Rather than sponsoring productive economic activity the international bankers and financial traders prefer to gamble on bubbles and derivatives that can deliver an avalanche of profits in the blink of an eye.

But as the economic crash of 2007-2008 clearly showed us all, the debt-addled system created by the financial intelligentsia is nothing more than a purebred Ponzi scheme, cooked up by financial insiders whose sock-puppets in government will never hold them accountable for their vile and wretched acts.

It is mind-boggling and bizarre that dominion over the 21st global economy should have been handed over to private banking interests that are allowed to expand the money supply on a whim, always in the form of debt with interest included - but that is where we are and that is what we have become.

When all new money is created as debt with interest attached it means the total amount of the world's liabilities will always and automatically be greater than its cumulative assets, which is an utterly insane and completely unsustainable way to run an economy – unless the intention is to run it into the ground, and for all we know that may indeed be the case.

Money should be a medium of exchange that facilitates free and fair trade in an economy that has become too complex to operate through direct barter alone. As we look ahead to a post-crash future, where the debt-based system has crashed and burned and the vast majority of the citizens of the world are left to fend for themselves, we can anticipate a return to this common-sense way of relating to money; as pragmatic and courageous men and women everywhere come together to build functioning microsocieties in the shadow of the fallen beast.

Certainly, as you prepare ahead of time for the imminent collapse, you will need to make sure you have a plentiful supply of the essentials on hand to help you make it through the darkest days. We are talking about some of the obvious and sometimes not so obvious:

- Food
- Medical supplies
 - o For emergencies and acute care
 - o For your daily needs
 - o And should include any natural remedies in place of prescriptions
- Weapons
- Ammunition
- Warm clothing
- Agricultural implements
- Potable water
- Important papers
- Hand crank radio
- Gasoline, and other oils
 - o However, be forewarned that gasoline has a very short “shelf life”

But if you are intelligent enough to anticipate the coming storm, you should also be making sensible financial preparations that will allow you to fully participate in the new market economy that will inevitably emerge after the initial chaos subsides.

The bottom line is that even after disaster strikes you are going to need money, and the type of universally-recognized currency that will give you the best opportunity to survive the trials and tribulations of the New World Disorder is that which has been manufactured from eternally-valuable precious metals - gold, silver, and platinum.

As Good as Gold

In the classic 1948 film *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, Humphrey Bogart plays the part of Fred C. Dobbs, an ordinary man whose lust for gold becomes so powerful and overwhelming that it drives him to commit murder (he himself is later

murdered by others who share the same lust). Dobb's story is an archetypal demonstration of the powerful hold that gold has over the human imagination; every time the call of "there's gold in them thar hills!" has rung out prospectors have flocked from near and far in hopes of striking it rich, in many cases sacrificing everything, including their sanity, in a frantic and desperate quest to get their hands on the world's most prized material substance.

Highly sought after for its beauty, malleability, and rarity, gold has been used to facilitate the exchange of goods and services in societies across the globe for centuries. In reflection of its exalted status, gold has long been seen as the purest form of money, with a universal value that is not beholden to fashion or historical contingency.

To say that someone's word is "as good as gold" has always been a high compliment, and you can take our word for it when we guarantee you that in a post-crash society or rapid currency deflation scenario any person carrying gold, especially in the form of coins produced by United States mint or by other national mints around the world, will be in possession of a form of money that will be respected and honored by all. For this reason any prepper who is serious about surviving in the aftermath of a financial collapse will want to include gold in their personal stock of assets.

Gold has an intrinsic value that is unaffected by the passage of time or custom. Because of its enduring charm, the more national currencies like the dollar become devalued by excessive debt and economic stagnation the more valuable gold will become. The price of gold has already risen from around \$300 per ounce in the early 2000s to over \$1400 per ounce at the time of this writing (indeed it fluctuates according to what is going on in the world – conflict, financial, etc.), and the struggles of the developed economies in the US, Europe, Japan, and other locales that have motivated this surge are still only in their nascent stages.

Considering the financial apocalypse that is coming, it doesn't take a degree in rocket science to figure out that the price of gold is on the verge of launching into the stratosphere, as all the chickens hatched by our broken financial system are finally returning home to roost.

But perhaps you find this hard to believe. From the psychological standpoint of a potential investor it is hard not to be a little freaked out by a better than 400% increase in the price of a commodity over such a short period of time. Surely, that little voice in your head is telling you, gold can't keep going up forever.

After all, most people only have so much money to spend, no matter how much they might adore and trust gold - and it has already fallen by more than \$400 per ounce since its peak in 2011, which might mean its tremendous rise before then was more aberration than indicative of a trend.

This line of thinking is understandable, but it is based more on fear than reality. To accurately assess the future of gold we must look at the long-term trends and the faltering state of the world economy, both of which tell us that gold can be expected to rise again and rise significantly as new financial calamities arrive to sweep away any brief moments of optimism that might convince delusional investors that disaster is not waiting just around the corner.

And don't forget that for your purposes it really doesn't matter how much gold goes up in value, because your primary reason for investing in this precious metal is so that you will have credible money in your hands if and when a financial collapse takes place. So from your perspective the recent drop in gold prices is actually a good thing, since you won't have to spend as much now to enter the market as an investor. With an eternal commodity like gold it is always good to buy when the market is artificially depressed, and that is exactly the situation we are in at this very moment.

In preparation for a post-collapse economy, the only type of gold you should be interested in are coins – not bars, or ingots, or paper gold in the form of electronically traded funds (ETFs) that would be impossible to cash in during a crisis. What you want is the physical equivalent of cold, hard cash, in the form of precious metal coins that have been minted as money and will be accepted as money by traders and merchants everywhere in the world.

And regardless of what the next monetary economy looks like gold coins are guaranteed to be the *only* commodity that is truly worth its weight in gold.

Speaking of “worth their weight in gold,” there are some gold coins that attain excess value above and beyond their actual gold content, based on their design, history, and choices of commemorative events to commemorate, and so on.

These are numismatic gold coins, and while they are fine for collectors as a prepper you should avoid them like the plague. For you the value of gold coins will derive entirely from the value of the gold they contain, pretty pictures and colorful back stories will not be worth one extra red cent.

Bullion coins are the type of gold coins you want – these no-nonsense pieces of minted precious metal are comprised of anywhere from 90 to 99.99% pure gold, and they should be your exclusive choice for purchase if you are preparing for a more unpleasant future.

Virtually all gold bullion coins regardless of where they were manufactured are sold in denominations of one troy ounce (1 oz). However, many are also sold in smaller sizes. These so-called fractional coins, which come in smaller denominations and in weights of 1/10th, 1/4th, or 1/2 of a troy ounce, are actually more expensive to purchase than one ounce coins because dealers charge a premium for them above and beyond the value of their gold content. But this is more of a problem for collectors than it will be for you, since you are going to need gold coins that merchants will actually accept; if all you have are a few coins worth

\$2000 to \$3000 apiece, good luck trying to spend them on everyday items (Did you ever try to buy a pack of gum with a \$100 bill?)

If so that didn't work out so well, did it?). So investing in fractional coins makes the most sense, and even if you have to pay let's say 15-20% over and above the current spot price at least you will be in possession of coins small enough for most traders to accept. Which is not to suggest you should avoid 1 oz. coins completely, but if your budget is limited you should certainly stock up on fractional gold coins first.

Because of low business operating costs and the variety of products available, buying gold coins online is probably the cheapest and most convenient way to build up your supply. Premiums are usually lower than what physical stores charge, and you will be able to find virtually any gold coin you might be interested in purchasing available in excellent condition and in bulk quantities if desired.

Gold bullion coins have been minted by a number of nations, but if you are in the United States you will unquestionably want coins that bear the stamp of your own nation first and foremost.

They will be much more readily recognized by anyone you are doing business with, and that familiarity will tend to eliminate any suspicion that you might be trying to pass off counterfeits. Nevertheless, it could make sense to purchase at least some coins that originate in foreign nations as well, since these coins often have lower premium mark-ups and if considered trustworthy could gain extra value in a post-catastrophe society because of their relative rarity on these shores.

Without further ado, here are the gold coins we recommend you consider adding to your personal stash of hard tradable assets:

- **American Gold Eagle:** Minted 1986-2013, available in 1/10th, 1/4th, 1/2, and 1 full troy ounce sizes. Premium markups charged by reputable online dealers can be expected to range from approximately 6% for a 1 ounce coin to 16% for the 1/10th ounce version.
- **American Gold Buffalo:** Minted 2006-2013, available in 1 full ounce sizes only and priced identically to the Gold Eagle.
- **South African Krugerrand:** Minted 1967-2013, available in 1/10th, 1/4th, 1/2, and 1 full troy ounce sizes. The premium markups on fractional coins are similar to those charged for their US Gold Eagle counterparts, but the 1 oz. Krugerrand can be purchased for as little as 4% above the current spot price.
- **Canadian Maple Leaf:** Minted 1979-2013, this versatile coin is available in 1/20th, 1/15th, 1/10th, 1/5th, 1/4th, 1/2, and 1 full troy ounce sizes. The 1/20th of an ounce Maple Leaf currently retails for under \$100 and is about the

smallest coin you could hope to find, but its current markup rate is a whopping 35%.

US gold coins minted before the modern era are generally sold with larger premiums, so even though they are popular with many collectors, they would hardly be a bargain for preppers. We have included South African Krugerrands as a potential candidate for your stash because their one ounce coins are a little less expensive than one ounce Gold Eagles and because they come from a nation widely associated with valuable mineral commodities.

The smaller denominations of the Canadian Maple Leaf are also ideal, since they are minted in a familiar location and come in spendable sizes that the US Mint does not produce.

If you are ready to invest in gold in preparation for the inevitable postcrash/post-dollar society, how you choose to mix and match the gold coins in your stockpile is of course entirely up to you. But as valued as gold money will be in any future society, it should still make up no more than 30-50% of your total precious metal coin collection. The rest should be reserved for coins minted from silver, which as a form of money offers convenience, reliability, and affordability in a safe and unbeatable package.

Gold is Golden, but Silver Delivers

At the 1896 Democratic National Convention, William Jennings Bryan gave one of the fieriest and most electrifying political speeches in US history. In support of a bimetallic monetary system, he implored the gathered representatives not to allow the citizens of the republic to be “crucified on a cross of gold.” In the late 19th century the gold standard had been used as an excuse to keep the country’s monetary supply excessively tight, hurting small farmers and working people by exacerbating debts and restricting economic development in general.

Byran’s soaring rhetoric secured his party’s nomination for president, but was not persuasive enough to power vault him into the White House. And rather than following his sage advice to expand the economy by supplementing gold with silver, the fine upstanding gentlemen occupying the House and the Senate chose to steer the country’s economic course in an entirely different direction.

In 1913 Congress passed and President Woodrow Wilson signed the Federal Reserve Act, which turned control of the US money supply over to representatives of the private banking industry. While it took time for the Federal Reserve’s nefarious end game to be revealed, 100 years later the results of their insidious machinations have become all too clear – sound financial policy based on a monetary system tied to gold and silver has been scrapped, in favor of an

uncontrolled credit-plus-interest scheme that has trapped the entire nation in a quicksand pit of debt.

If the country had followed William Jennings Bryan's recommendation things could have been quite different. But a bimetallic standard would have helped average working people far more than it would have profited elites, and the powers that be could hardly agree to something as revolutionary as that.

By instead replacing real money with credit, they handed the keys to the kingdom over to private bankers with no interest in promoting the general welfare. And as the last 100 years have proven conclusively, when speculating in money itself is allowed to become a source of obscene profit, sensible economic and financial policy inevitably go down the drain.

But when the crash comes the ongoing financial scam that has enriched the few at the expense of the many will lose its credibility and legitimacy, opening the door for the bimetallic economy that Bryan advocated so forcefully in his famous "Cross of Gold" speech. For while gold has the power to inspire dreams it is silver that will be asked to do most of the heavy lifting in a post-depression/post-financial apocalypse economy. As you prepare for the hard times ahead, silver's low cost, ready availability, and universally recognized identity as a dependable form of money should motivate you to give it a prominent place in your personal collection of tangible financial assets.

From a pure investment standpoint, silver does not offer the same opportunity for great profit as gold. Even if absolute catastrophe should be staved off, gold is still likely to rise significantly in price in coming years in response to economic difficulties, whereas silver would likely remain under the radar. In comparison to gold, silver suffers from a bit of a public image problem; it just isn't as "sexy" as its flashier cousin, and as a result it doesn't capture people's imagination with the same level of intensity. But if and when financial chaos begins its rampage, causing paper money to fall into disrepute and electronic bank accounts to disappear in an instant, silver will unquestionably be in high demand in the new free market economy that will emerge from the wreckage.

With the government no longer in a position to enforce its hegemony the old monetary system will soon go the way of the dinosaur, and with the development of a free-exchange-and-barter model gold and silver (and perhaps platinum, which we will discuss later) coins will soon be seen as the only legitimate forms of money on the planet.

But because it is so much easier to acquire and is manufactured in more reasonable denominations (good luck trying to buy a dozen eggs from your neighbor with a \$1000 ½ ounce American Gold Eagle), silver will be the undisputed king of the post-crash consumer economy.

You may still need gold for some larger purchases, and its tendency to rise significantly in value makes it a great investment in general, but from a practical standpoint first and foremost you are going to want to have silver coins and have them in abundance.

Some sources recommend a 50/50 split between gold and silver for a post-crash nest egg, but we tend to lean more in the direction of silver, because you can purchase it in sensible denominations and you will not have to pay the same premiums to buy it in bulk as you will if you try to load up on fractional gold coins.

Of course you might be able to exchange gold coins for silver in the future, should you need spending money in smaller denominations, but there is so much uncertainty about what a post-collapse economy and society might look like that this option is not something you should depend on.

So it is better to have plenty of silver on hand going in, so you know you will be able to do business with your neighbors and those in your surrounding community as soon as trading markets begin to appear.

And here is another advantage to silver - if word gets out that you are in possession of unusually large amounts of gold, it could make you the target of thieves and heavily-armed robbers, putting your family at grave risk.

Don't forget about the story of Fred C. Dobbs – he may have been a fictional character, but the greed and lust that gold creates in people is a very real phenomenon.

If you are a prepper planning for a very likely doomsday scenario, or even just a 'not very nice day' scenario, all of the gold *and* silver you purchase should be in the form of coins. In the case of silver, bars, ingots, or commemorative rounds are too easy for fakers and counterfeiters to replicate or falsify, whereas silver coins minted by the US government will be recognized by one and all as a safe, true, and legitimate form of money.

And in this instance we are going to suggest that you eschew foreign options and purchase all of your silver in a combination of one ounce American Silver Eagles plus a bag or two of so-called "junk silver," which is the name for the common general circulation silver coins that were produced by the US Mint between 1878 and 1964.

American Silver Eagle \$1 coins were first minted in 1986, and they have subsequently become the world's most popular silver bullion coin. Made from 99% pure silver, these one ounce silver dollars can be purchased at a lower premium than older US silver dollars, which have attained some extra numismatic value and are therefore overpriced for your purposes.

If you purchase American Silver Eagles you might have to pay somewhere in the neighborhood of 15-18% above the spot price, but if you buy in bulk you can usually cut a better deal (silver is currently going for about \$22 an ounce, so buying

in bulk is not prohibitively expensive). You will want to be sure to buy your Silver Eagles from authorized dealers, preferably online where the premiums are less – there are a lot of fake Silver Eagles floating around out there and if you stray from the well-tread path in search of a better deal you could easily get burned.

And speaking of buying silver in quantity, one of the most popular methods for obtaining a goodly amount of silver coinage is to buy some of the older stuff by the bag full. After being widely circulated for years “junk” silver half-dollars, quarters, and dimes are usually quite worn and have no additional numismatic value beyond their face, but they are highly recognizable and at 90% silver content they would figure to be quite useful in a post-collapse precious metal-based economy.

When mixed in bags these coins are sold based on their combined face value, and a full-sized \$1000 bag would contain 715 troy ounces of silver (a half bag would have \$500 in silver coins, a tenth of a bag \$100, etc.).

Premiums for junk coins are likely to be similar to what you will have to pay when you purchase American Silver Eagles in quantity, the latter of which are as pristine as junk dimes, quarters, and half-dollars are worn. If you prefer the Silver Eagles for aesthetic reasons it is certainly understandable, but your post-crash stash really should include some variety, since you will undoubtedly need smaller denominations in many circumstances (these coins are weighted proportionally, so a dime has only one-tenth as much silver as a dollar and would therefore be worth just 10% as much).

With a face value-to-actual value ratio of just \$22 to 1 (under the current price structure), it is not hard so see why silver coins will be so useful in an all-precious metal monetary economy.

Platinum? Maybe, but not Instead of Gold or Silver

Did you ever wonder why they give a gold record to any recording artist who sells a half-million albums, but a platinum record to anyone who sells over a million? After all, gold is the most rare and valuable of all precious metals, isn't it?

Well, actually, no – platinum is in reality rarer and more valuable than gold, and even though not many realize it the United States and many other countries in the world do in fact mint coins in platinum. They may not be as familiar as gold or silver coins, but they are out there and they do have superb and utterly legitimate value. So while gold and silver are the primary option for preppers stocking up on reliable money for the hard times ahead, if you believe variety is the spice of life, platinum could be real option for you.

Surprisingly, even though platinum is less common than gold their respective spot prices these days are *almost* identical (platinum is a mere \$50 an ounce more expensive than the price of gold as of this writing). This is a testament to the popularity of gold, but it also means that platinum is somewhat undervalued at the moment, making it a strong investment for those who are eager to get the best possible bang for the buck.

The premiums you will have to pay for American Platinum Eagles, which were produced in bullion form from 1997-2008, will run in the familiar 10-20% range, depending on whether you prefer to purchase 1/10th, 1/4th, or 1/2 ozt. fractional coins or the regular 1 ozt. \$100 face value platinum pieces. Because platinum is still relatively unfamiliar you will want to stay away from coins minted in other countries, so even if you could find smaller denominations produced elsewhere the chances of them being rejected by your local merchants are too great to take the chance.

Platinum could indeed add some diversity to your personal stockpile of coins, but because of the expense you should only purchase it as a replacement for gold and not in lieu of buying silver. No matter what, silver should make up between 50 and 70% of your precious metal purchases, and if you choose to add platinum to the mix, it should only be based on your conviction that it is undervalued and is likely to increase in value more than gold in the coming years.

Be forewarned, however – since platinum is relatively obscure, some traders in a post-catastrophe economy might be reluctant to accept it, either because they themselves were not aware of its true value or because of their fear that their suppliers would not recognize its value. So if you do decide to add some platinum to your stock, we would recommend limiting it to no more than 10-15% of your total precious metal investment.

Just how much gold, silver, and platinum you should choose to purchase in preparation for darker days will obviously be based on your budget, and on how much disposable income you will have left over after stocking up on other essentials such as food, medicine, ammunition, and sources of fuel. What we can say with certainty is that in a post-catastrophe America there would be no such

thing as having too much precious metal. And no such thing as having too little, either – remember, in dire economic circumstances the value of precious metals will inevitably rise dramatically, meaning that the \$50, \$500, \$5000, or \$20,000 you invest in silver, gold, and platinum at current prices might be worth two, three, or several times that much when you actually have reason to spend it.

The Return of Barter

Money has been around so long that it is easy to lose sight of what it really represents. In simpler times human beings traded goods and services directly, but as societies became more complex, a neutral unit of exchange was required that could bridge the gaps that separated prospective traders.

As the use of money spread, most swapping was eventually replaced by selling and buying, but at a fundamental level barter is still the foundation upon which all monetary economies are built – as producers, we trade our labor or our creations for money, and as consumers we trade our money for goods. So in the end we still have an economy based on barter, only now it is indirect rather than direct.

But in the current global economy money has become progressively disconnected from its roots in barter. Money has been transformed from something tangible into an electronic version of the magician's smoke-and-mirrors, as fractional banking rules allow the masters of international finance to create new debt out of thin air and to then charge interest for loaning out something they never actually possessed in the first place.

And now the devilish debt-based financing schemes created by the banking hucksters are running amok, laying waste to everything in their path and sucking the real producers – us - down into a black hole of ruin from which there is no possible hope of escape.

However, while financial disaster may be inevitable, what comes after could take us back to our roots, and in the long run human society may actually be better off as a result.

Unlike the current economic system, which was apparently created by “economists” in polka dot suits held up by suspenders, bright red noses, massive wigs and big floppy shoes who like to jump out of little cars at the circus, a system of fair exchange between citizen consumers, talented entrepreneurs, and small producers that relied on a combination of hard money and direct barter to move goods and services would be sustainable, efficient, and thoroughly grounded in

logic and common sense. So if the old system does crash, as painful and difficult as the transition to a new way of life might be, this evolution could ultimately reconnect us with things as they were always meant to be and of course, once were.

While gold, silver, and platinum might form an excellent basis for a new and more sensible monetary system, there is little doubt that direct bartering networks connecting friends, neighbors, associates, community members, and citizens from different locales traveling to newly-created central markets would spontaneously and organically emerge in any post-crash economy. Barter would be natural in such a context; as long as you had goods, services, or skills to share that would be valuable to others and as long as they were in a position to offer you the same in return, barter would be the obvious alternative in many instances.

When direct exchange is possible, barter is always the most efficient path of trade, bringing a simplicity to economic relations that saves everyone time and effort while also helping to knit or perhaps reknit together the bonds of the social fabric.

Lest anyone doubt the utility of bartering during hard times, they would only have to look back to the Great Depression of the 1930s, when a thriving barter economy sprung up in communities across the United States in response to a shortage of goods, services, money, and gainful employment.

And if you want to see a contemporary example of bartering in action, look no further than Greece, where the current economic turmoil has led to a dramatic expansion of the informal barter economy. Greek citizens still have plenty of useful skills and products to share, despite the ruin that has been brought down upon them by the irresponsible and selfish actions of lame-brained politicians and their bankster allies.

But of course if you want to make a deal you will have to have something valuable to offer. So in preparation for the future, here is a partial list of items that are likely to be popular and easily moveable in the bartering networks that will emerge after the coming crash (and we emphasize this list is partial, if you decide to put together a stockpile of tradable goods please feel free to use your own imagination):

- Strong plastic bottles and containers
- Winter clothing
- Hand tools (hammers, chisels, saws, screwdrivers, planers, etc.)
- Plastic tarps □ Fishing gear

- Tents and sleeping bags ☐
- Seeds (in particular Heirloom)
- Basic first aid supplies (excluding prescription medicines, you are not a doctor)
- Water purification supplies
- Batteries in all sizes
- Coffee and liquor
- Any type of combustible fuel – gasoline, diesel, propane, or wood
- Duct tape
- Knives
- Simple games (puzzles, decks of cards, dice games, etc.)
- Manual farm or gardening tools
- Older but still functioning bicycles
- Solar lanterns with built-in power cells
- Vinegar and baking soda for cleaning
- Toys
- Pencils, pens, and paper
- Fire-starting supplies ☐
- Reading glasses
- Toiletries and sanitary supplies
- Pepper spray
- Flashlights and candles ☐
- Condiments and spices
- Plastic bags of all sizes
- Sewing and knitting supplies

Essentially, these are all things you could easily collect and save over time without great expenditure.

But there is one important suggestion not listed here, and it is a big one – your skills. Perhaps you have a green thumb and can grow just about any kind of fruit or vegetable. Or maybe you can fix just about anything mechanical, electrical or plumbing related. Or perhaps you have construction skills. Maybe you are a talented marksman who can teach people how to shoot. Or you might even be a great artist or writer – any skill you have is likely to be valued by others who lack them, making it potentially useful in a society that practices barter.

Because of the internet, it is now easier to make connections with like-minded souls than it has ever been before. This gives you a golden opportunity to start forming proto-barter networks immediately, so that when the chickens do come home to roost, or the clock strikes midnight, or the you-know-what hits the fan, you and your compadres will be ready to hit the ground running.

A Dash for Cash?

In conclusion, we would like to suggest something that will go against the grain a bit, and may surprise you if you have been reading other sources discussing financial survival during a super-depression or currency devaluation. You have probably heard all the horror stories about how the government printing presses (they are really private and belong to the Federal Reserve, but for the moment we will stick with the conventional narrative) have been going non-stop for decades,

all in a desperate attempt to forestall economic disaster. Supposedly, once this ongoing campaign to prop up the system finally collapses under its own staggering weight, paper money is going to be rendered completely and utterly worthless. But while apparently compelling, this narrative actually misrepresents the truth about how those mythical “printing presses” work.

We use the word ‘mythical’ here because those perpetually churning printing presses you have heard so much about exist only in virtual reality, which is another way of saying they don’t really exist at all.

Under the Federal Reserve/fractional banking system, banks are legally allowed to create money out of thin air, but this activity occurs entirely in the electronic sphere and has no true connection to the real world. There are plenty of dollar bills and coins around, to be sure, but did you know that out of the approximately 10 trillion dollars that comprise the US money supply only about 2% of it exists in the form of physical money?

To put this in perspective, if we were to collect all of the existing physical currency presently in circulation in the United States and divide it up equally between every man, woman, and child living here, when it was all said and done each one of us would only be left with about \$800 worth of cash. Think about that for a moment... \$800 in cash for each of us. That’s it!

Folks, that is not very much money at all, and once the big crash occurs and electronic money disappears, people will eventually come to realize how rare authentic physical currency actually is. When this happens, it seems very likely that contrary to the expectations of some paper money and conventional coins will regain some of their lost value. This fiat money will not regain its former standing, and will remain in an inferior position relative to gold, silver, and platinum.

This is an absolute certainty. But there is a very good chance that at some point conventional currency will come back into use again, most likely as a supplementary or complementary community-style currency that will be used to facilitate localized trade between people who know and trust each other implicitly.